

## EMC/JOUR/RIM 3650

### FREE EXPRESSION, MASS MEDIA, AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

Fall 2009

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Class	Instructor
<b>Days:</b> M, W, F	<b>Name:</b> Jason B. Reineke, Ph. D.
<b>Times:</b> 11:30 am – 12:25 pm	<b>E-mail:</b> jreineke@mtsu.edu
<b>Room:</b> 104 John Bragg Mass Communication Building (COMM)	<b>Office:</b> 264 John Bragg Mass Communication Building (COMM)
<b>Web Site:</b> <a href="https://elearn.mtsu.edu">https://elearn.mtsu.edu</a> Login using Pipeline username and password, click course link	<b>Office Hours:</b> 9:00 am – 11:00 am, Tu & W By appointment TBA

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#### Required Text

Tedford, T. L., & Herbeck, D. A. (2005). Freedom of speech in the United States (6th ed.). State College, PA: Strata. (ISBN: 9781891136214).

#### Catalog Description

A general introduction to the issues surrounding free expression and its relationship to mass media in contemporary America. Comprehensive analysis of the history, philosophies, cases, and controls associated with freedom of expression.

#### Accrediting Council in Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Core Values

The ACEJMC core values addressed by this course include:

- Freedom of expression
- History & roles of media
- Diversity of media audiences
- Present images and information well
- Ethics in media practice
- Think creatively & analytically
- Research by rigorous methods
- Write clearly & accurately
- Evaluate content quality

## **Do You Have a Lottery Scholarship?**

To retain Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. You may qualify with a 2.75 cumulative GPA after 72 attempted hours (and subsequent semesters), if you are enrolled full-time and maintain a semester GPA of at least 3.0. A grade of C, D, F, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. Dropping a class after 14 days may also impact eligibility; if you withdraw from this class and it results in an enrollment status of less than full time, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship. Lottery recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship for a maximum of five years from the date of initial enrollment, or until a bachelor degree is earned. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form, review lottery requirements on the web at <http://scholarships.web.mtsu.edu/telsconteligibility.htm>, or contact the Financial Aid Office at 615-898-2830.

## **Reasonable Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodations, you should speak with me about these issues and contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (0120 KUC, [dssemail@mtsu.edu](mailto:dssemail@mtsu.edu), 615-898-2783) immediately if you have not already done so. I can only make accommodations for a disability with the guidance of DSS.

## **Academic Integrity and Misconduct**

Academic integrity will be maintained in this course and academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this course. If I so much as suspect academic misconduct in this course, I am required by the university to report it to the Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services (<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~judaff/>). Academic misconduct includes plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and facilitation. See <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~judaff/integrity.htm>.

*All quizzes, discussion posts and exams in this course are to be completed, in their entirety, by you alone as an individual student unless I specifically indicate otherwise in writing. There is no group work in this course. You are not to provide assistance to other students on quizzes, discussion posts, or exams. You are not to request assistance or advice of any kind in the completion of discussion posts, quizzes or exams from anyone other than appropriate*

university representatives. Appropriate university representatives include library staff, writing center staff, (for disabled students) DSS staff, and (of course) me.

If a student in this course is found responsible for academic misconduct for any quiz, discussion post, or exam, that quiz, discussion post, or exam will receive a score of zero points.

At the end of this syllabus, you will find a brief form for you to sign indicating that you have read this syllabus, as well as the Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services' statements on academic integrity and misconduct (<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~judaff/integrity.htm>) and the disciplinary process (<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~judaff/dis.htm>). 2.5% of your grade in this course (10 points) depends on you returning this academic integrity form to me by the end of class on September 11, 2009.

If you have a question about academic integrity or misconduct, just ask. It will be much easier for everyone involved to talk about it beforehand than to deal with a hearing and punishment later.

### Coursework and Grading

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on three primary types of coursework: quizzes, discussion posts, and exams. Points are distributed as follows:

1 academic integrity form	10 pts.
10 quizzes at 5 pts. each	50 pts.
16 discussion posts at 10 pts. each	160 pts.
3 exams at 60 pts. each	180 pts.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400 pts.</b>

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 360 pts. or more	C+ = 319 – 306 pts.	D+ = 279 – 266 pts.
B+ = 359 – 346 pts.	C = 305 – 294 pts.	D = 265 – 254 pts.
B = 345 – 334 pts.	C– = 293 – 280 pts.	D– = 253 – 240 pts.
B– = 333 – 320 pts.		F = 239 pts. or less

### Academic Integrity Form

As noted above, completing and returning the academic integrity form by the deadline is worth 10 points. See the schedule at the end of this syllabus for the turn-in deadline. Point values for academic integrity forms turned in after the deadline will be determined on a case-by-

case basis at my discretion. Failure to turn in an academic integrity form does not in any way excuse from course requirements or expectations with regard to awareness of policies, plagiarism, or deadlines. If you have an objection to signing or turning in the academic integrity form, you will have opportunities to make up the points through extra credit.

### Quizzes

With the exception of the first class meeting, I will not take attendance in this class. However, I will administer 10 pop quizzes over the course of the semester. If you are not in class when a quiz begins, you will receive a score of 0 points on that quiz. *There will be no exceptions to this policy.* If you miss 1 quiz, you will only be out 1.25% of the course's total points, which is not much. But if you miss all 10 quizzes you will be out 12.50% of the course's total points – more than a letter grade. I understand that some of you might miss a quiz or two due to circumstances beyond your control; if that happens to you, there will be enough extra credit opportunities to make up for it. When you sign up for a course, there is an implicit expectation that you will be able to attend at the time scheduled on a regular basis.

Quizzes will consist of 5, multiple choice and/or true/false questions, worth 1 point each. Depending on when I administer the quiz during the day's meeting, it will cover material from the previous course meeting, that day's course meeting, or some combination thereof. For example, if I administer a quiz at the beginning of class, it will cover the previous meeting's material. If I administer the quiz at about the middle of a class, it will cover a combination of that meeting and the previous meeting's material. If I administer a quiz at the end of class, it will cover that day's material.

### Discussion Posts

In order to practice public expression we will have various online discussions over the course of the semester using D2L's "Discussions" page. This is a place for you to explore the topics covered in the course in greater detail with your colleagues.

I will create a forum for each of the weeks in the course. In each of these forums, I will create a general discussion topic, where you can bring up anything related to that week's material and write about it. I will also typically post a topic or two that I think are interesting for each week that you may build on with your posts if you choose to do that instead. Aside from that, I will act as a moderator and only contribute to the discussion when necessary to keep things on topic, maintain order, clarify issues or ask for clarification, balance the discussion if needed, etc.

Class discussion posts are not the same as something you might post on an online bulletin board – there are some ground rules. These ground rules will be enforced through grading. Full credit will be earned by responses that:

- *Are respectful of others.* You might disagree with someone else, but you can do so without being disagreeable. Name calling, insults, other *ad hominem* attacks, “trolling,” intentional disruption of discussion, disingenuousness and incivility are not productive. Thus, posts that exhibit these qualities may receive as little as 0 points. If persistent problems arise, I will take further action on a case-by-case basis.
- *Are at least 200 words.* This will help to ensure that you are making a substantial contribution to the discussion. The section of this syllabus under “Quizzes” is 264 words – it’s not that much writing.
- *Make an original contribution to the discussion.* Don’t just repeat what others have said. Make a unique statement. You are encouraged to respond to each other’s posts, but simply agreeing or disagreeing is not enough, in and of itself. You should bring something new to the table when doing so.
- *Are well-written.* I suggest that you write your posts in a word processing program, use spelling and grammar check features, and then cut and paste the checked, proof-read, and edited text into the discussion post. You will lose points for spelling and grammar errors in your posts. This might be an online discussion, but it is for a university course – you are expected to write like someone who has some idea how to do so. Please use words, write intelligibly, and remember that you will be identified in your posts and that they will be read by your colleagues in the course. In short, try not to make yourself look stupid.
- *Are well-reasoned and that back up assertions of fact with citation.* Try to avoid logical fallacies. When you make a factual claim that might be disputed, you should find a source to back it up. Whenever you use someone else’s ideas or words in this (or any other way) you need to provide citation (otherwise you are engaging in plagiarism). Citation should include the author’s name, the title of the work you’re citing, and a brief description of what type of source it is (e.g. magazine article, book). If it’s an online source, a link or URL should be provided. If it is a print source, provide a page number for any specific points you reference (especially if it is

a lengthy source). If your source is the course text, you can simply say that you got the information from page whatever of the class textbook. Sources should be reputable – don't treat other people's opinions as facts, don't use Wikipedia or Web sites of uncertain origin or reliability as sources that you cite, though you might use them to find other, more reliable sources. As a rule of thumb, stick to reputable news sources (e.g. *The New York Times*, *CNN*, *The Economist*) or sources that you find through Walker Library's Web site (<http://library.mtsu.edu/>).

- *Are posted on time.* You are required to make 16 discussion posts, and there are 16 weeks in the course. However, you do not have to make a post every week. Instead, you are expected to have made 4 post by the end of the fourth week of class, another 4 posts by the end of the eighth week of class, and so on. The count starts over every 4 weeks. Thus, you will have 4, 4-week "windows." In each of these windows you will be expected to make 4 posts in the forums for those weeks. See the course schedule at the end of the syllabus for specific window dates and times.

Each post is worth up to 10 points. You can also make up to one extra credit post per four-week window, with the same requirements as regular posts. However, extra credit posts will only be worth up to 5 points of extra credit each. If you make more than 5 posts during a window, I will count what I believe is the best of your posts after the fourth one as the extra credit post. Note that this means there is an opportunity for up to 20 points of extra credit in discussion posts alone – enough to offset an academic integrity form that was not turned in and two missed quizzes.

### Exams

There will be three exams in this course. They will be not be cumulative, but a solid understanding of previous material will probably help you understand the questions. See the course schedule at the end of this syllabus for exam dates. Bring a no. 2 pencil on exam days. Exams are closed book and closed note, and the use of electronic devices of any kind (laptop, phone, etc.) will be prohibited. Exams will consist of thirty multiple-choice and/or true/false questions worth two points each for a total of sixty points. I may include additional questions for extra credit, but don't count on it.

Exams may be made up under only four circumstances:

- 1) You are personally hospitalized overnight within the seventy-two hours prior to the in-class exam.
- 2) The death and/or funeral service of an immediate family member occurs within seventy-two hours of the in-class exam.
- 3) You are required to be in court on the day of the in-class exam.
- 4) You are required to miss the in-class exam due to official university business.

If one (or more) of these circumstances occur you then must:

- 1) Provide evidence of the circumstances in the form of a doctor's note, obituary/funeral card, court summons/order, or documentation from a university office, etc. which is accepted by me as evidence. You must do so in less than two university business days after the in-class exam. Let me know *before* the in-class exam if at all possible. If you are able to do this, you then must...
- 2) Schedule a make-up exam which must be taken within three university business days of providing evidence.

Makeup exams may consist of different questions than the in-class exam. *If you miss an exam, and the criteria described above are not met, you will receive zero points for that exam. There will be no exceptions to this policy.*

#### Extra credit

As discussed above, there will be opportunities to earn extra credit by making additional discussion posts, and there might be some extra credit built in to the exams.

There *might* be other opportunities for extra credit in the course as well. If so, point values will be assigned on a case-by-case basis. Do not count on any other extra credit opportunities.

#### **Readings and Lecture**

See the course schedule at the end of this syllabus for readings. Readings should be completed *before* the first class meeting of the week they are listed under. We will typically have about 20-40 pages of reading per week.

There will be overlap between lectures and readings, but both will contain exclusive information, and quizzes and exams will cover both readings and lectures.

Lectures will consist mainly of me discussing the day's topic. Since we have a rather large class, and less than an hour per meeting, in-depth, in-class discussion will be limited. That's part of what discussion posts are for. However, I strongly encourage you to ask any questions you might have, and to contribute when you think the class might benefit from your comments, but please do so concisely.

I will be using PowerPoint. So that you don't have to spend the entire time in class frantically taking notes, I will provide a *partial* outline of these slides on D2L at least 24 hours before the first lecture of the relevant week of classes begins. It is your job to print out these outlines, bring them to class, and fill in the blanks. If you miss a class, you should borrow a classmate's notes to fill in your own. *I will not provide you with the PowerPoint slides if you miss a class.* I will be happy to clarify anything that is unclear during my office hours (whether you were present for the class meeting in question or not), but you should have your notes filled in before you come to office hours. Material on exams and quizzes from lecture *will not* be limited to what is on the PowerPoint slides, so you should take additional notes and pay attention to what is said, as well.

Creating distractions in class is inconsiderate of others. *Please limit your personal conversations to before or after class. Likewise, please turn off your phone's ringer and turn off any other devices that might disrupt the class. Please do not use your phone to take notes – doing so looks like texting. Activities that distract me (e.g. sitting front-and-center and sleeping) or those around you (e.g. browsing Facebook) count as disruptions.* If you know that you will have to leave the class for any reason before the end of the day's meeting, please try to take a seat by an aisle and make a discreet exit. I am willing to embarrass both you and myself in order to discourage classroom disruptions such as these, so fair warning.

### **Athletes and Employed Students**

*Athletes and students with jobs will be held to the same standards as any other student - no more, no less. Missing a quiz due to competition, practice, or work will result in a score of zero for that quiz.* If sport or work is going to present a consistent conflict with your ability to attend or perform in this course you should see me to discuss the situation immediately.

### **Tentative Nature of this Syllabus**

This syllabus represents a contract in the works. Events that occur over the semester may require changes to the administration of the course and therefore the syllabus. Any changes will

be announced in class and on the D2L site. It is your responsibility to keep up with any such modifications and be aware of current policies, due dates, etc.

### Course Schedule

<b>Week / Date</b>	<b>Topic(s) / Reading</b>	<b>Exam/Due</b>
<i>Week 1</i> Aug 31 – Sept. 4 Reading and Notes	<i>Introduction</i> See “Week 1 Readings” in D2L	
<i>Week 2</i> Sept. 7 - 11 Reading and Notes	<i>History:</i> <i>Blasphemy and Sedition I</i> T&H pp. 3-40; No class M – Labor Day	
<i>Week 3</i> Sept. 14 - 18 Reading and Notes	<i>History:</i> <i>Blasphemy and Sedition II</i> T&H pp. 43-74	Acad. integ. form due F, in class
<i>Week 4</i> Sept. 21 - 25 Reading and Notes	<i>Defamation and Invasion of Privacy:</i> <i>Lies and Harmful Truths</i> T&H pp. 75-112	First 4 discuss. posts due F 11:59 pm
<i>Week 5</i> Sept. 28 – Oct. 2 Reading and Notes	<i>Obscenity:</i> <i>More than Just Indecent</i> T&H pp. 113-160	
<i>Week 6</i> Oct. 5- 9 Reading and Notes	<i>Provocation and Hate Speech:</i> <i>Expression that Leads to Violence</i> T& H pp, 161-182	Exam 1 M, material from weeks 1-5
<i>Week 7</i> Oct. 12 - 16 Reading and Notes	<i>Commercial Expression:</i> <i>Misrepresentations of Products and Services</i> T&H pp. 183-210	
<i>Week 8</i> Oct. 19 - 23 Reading and Notes	<i>Prior Restraint:</i> <i>Stopping Communication Before it Occurs</i> T&H, pp. 213-234, No class M – Fall Break	Second 4 discuss. posts due F, 11:59 pm
<i>Week 9</i> Oct. 26 - 30 Reading and Notes	<i>Time, Place, and Manner Constraints:</i> <i>A Compromise of Expression and Censorship</i> T&H pp. 259-294	

<b>Week / Date</b>	<b>Topic(s) / Reading</b>	<b>Exam/Due</b>
<i>Week 10</i> Nov. 2 - 6 Reading and Notes	<i>Institutional Constraints: Schools, the Military and Prisons</i> T&H pp. 295-332	
<i>Week 11</i> Nov. 9 – 13 Reading and Notes	<i>Freedom of the Press: Access and Freedom of Information</i> T&H pp. 235-258	Exam 2 M, material from weeks 6-10
<i>Week 12</i> Nov. 16 - 20 Reading and Notes	<i>News War: Governmental, Cultural, and Economic Issues</i> None	Third 4 discuss. posts due F, 11:59 pm
<i>Week 13</i> Nov. 23 - 27 Reading and Notes	<i>Technology I: Broadcasting and Cable</i> T&H pp. 359 - 398	
<i>Week 14</i> Nov. 30 – Dec. 4 Reading and Notes	<i>Technology II: Copyright and Internet</i> T&H 335-358, 399 - 428	
<i>Week 15</i> Dec. 7 - 11 Reading and Notes	<i>Conclusion</i> T&H pp.431 - 450	Exam 3 F, 10:00 am material from weeks 11-15
<i>Week 16</i> Dec. 14 – 18 Reading and Notes	<i>Finals Week</i> None; No class meetings	Fourth 4 discuss. posts due W, 11:59 pm

**Academic Integrity and Misconduct Awareness Form**  
EMC/JOUR/RIM 3650, Fall 2009

*This form is worth 10 points, and must be returned to me (Jason Reineke) by the end of class on September 11, 2009.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (please print your name legibly),  
have read the following documents:

- The course syllabus for EMC/JOUR/RIM 3650, for fall semester 2009
- The Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services' statement on academic integrity and misconduct (<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~judaff/integrity.htm>)
- The Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services' statement on the disciplinary process (<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~judaff/dis.htm>).

I understand these documents. I also understand that continued enrollment in this course indicates agreement with the terms set forth in those documents. I know that any suspected misconduct in EMC/JOUR/RIM 3650 will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services, and that if I am found responsible for academic misconduct on a quiz, discussion post, or exam in this course I will receive a score of 0 points for that quiz, discussion post, or exam as well as any additional punishment that the University Discipline Committee or other disciplinary unit sees fit.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_